



Department of Energy
 Richland Operations Office
 P.O. Box 550
 Richland, Washington 99352

0061467

04-OES-0010

MAR 12 2004

Mr. Fred Jamison
 Waste Management Project Manager
 Nuclear Waste Program
 State of Washington Department of Ecology
 1315 W. Fourth Avenue
 Kennewick, Washington 99336

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Dear Mr. Jamison:

CLARIFICATION OF STATUS OF HANFORD FEDERAL FACILITY AGREEMENT AND
 CONSENT ORDER (TRI-PARTY AGREEMENT) INTERIM MILESTONE M-91-40,
 INITIATE RETRIEVAL IN TRENCH 4 BY JANUARY 15, 2004

In reference to your letter to J. B. Hebdon, RL, "Notification of Completion of Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (Tri-Party Agreement) Settlement Agreement and Tentative Agreement Interim Milestone M-91-40, Requirement for United States Department of Energy to Initiate Retrieval in Trench 4 by January 14, 2004," dated February 20, 2004, the U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL) acknowledges that the State of Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) is correct in its determination that all obligations created by Milestone M-91-40 have not yet been completed. In its previous correspondence, RL intended to convey only that obligations to "start vapor extraction . . . to reduce carbon tetrachloride vapors" were completed on November 11, 2003, and to initiate "retrieval of Retrievably Stored Waste at burial ground 218-W-4C Trench 4" was completed on January 12, 2004. RL did not intend to suggest that it has satisfied the M-91-40 requirement to "Complete retrieval in trench 4 by December 31, 2006 . . ." However, RL is pleased to report that completion of the remaining M-91-40 requirement is on schedule, and that status updates will be provided to Ecology through project managers' meetings and quarterly milestone reviews.

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If you have questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Joel Hebdon, Director, Office of Environmental Services, concerning Tri-Party Agreement issues on (509) 376-6657; or Matt McCormick, Assistant Manager for the Central Plateau, concerning technical issues on (509) 373-9971.

Sincerely,

Keith A. Klein
 Manager

OES:DEJ

cc: See page 2

Mr. Fred Jamison
04-OES-0010

-2-

MAR 12 2004

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